

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04799 171637Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /089 W
-----125655 171822Z /44

P R 17150Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2158
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMMBASSY LAGOS 1334
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D N T I A L PRETORIA 4799

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PINS, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REACTIONS TO GUERRILLA PRESENCE AT

MUZOREWA MEETING

REF: PRETORIA 4707

1. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MSANE TTL MEETING THAT MUZOREWA
ADDRESSED ON AUGUST 12 AND WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY OVER
200 ARMED GUERRILLAS (REFTEL, PARA 5), WAS TELEVISED AND SHOWN
ON A HALF-HOUR PROGRAM IN SALISBURY. THE PROGRAM HAS CAUSED A
VARIETY OF REACTIONS. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ZAPU SPOKESMAN AND
SEVERAL PRESS SOURCES SHOWED PRELIMINARY SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE
MEETING, INTIMATING THAT IT WAS A SET-UP BY THE GOVERNMENT. ONE
ACCOUNT WENT INTO SOME DETAIL ABOUT THE LACK OF IDENTIFICATION OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04799 171637Z

THE PICTURES TAKEN AT THE SCENE, BUT THIS CRITICISM HAS APPARENTLY
BEEN MET BY THE TELEVISED VERSION. THIS PROGRAM NOT ONLY
SHOWED THE SCENE AND THE BISHOP'S SPEECH, BUT CONTAINED AN
INTERVIEW WITH A "COMRADE MAX" WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER OF THE AREA AND IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AND
ADMINISTRATION.

2. REACTION SUBSEQUENT TO THE TELEVISION SHOW HAS TAKEN ON A DIRRERENT TWIST. SEVERAL NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS STATE THAT WHITES HAVE BEEN SHOCKED INTO REALIZATION THAT BLACKS MAY SOON TAKE OVER. INTERVIEWS RUN IN THE PRESS REFLECT THIS FEELING, WITH ONE WOMAN QUOTED AS SAYING "NO ONE TOLD ME THESE PEOPLE WERE ACTIVELY OPERATING ON MY DOORSTEP." SOURCES IN SALISBURY HAVE CONFIRMED THIS REACTION TO US, SAYING THAT WHITE MORALE HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY THE PROGRAM. ONE SOURCE SAID THAT NO ONE QUESTIONS THE VALIDITY OF THE PROGRAM; THEY ACCEPT THAT GUERRILLAS ARE TAKING OVER AND THEY ARE FRIGHTENED.

3. THE INCIDENT HAS ALSO FED OPPOSITION FEELINGS ON ANOTHER ISSUE. RECENT SOUNDING IN SALISBURY BY EMBASSY POLOFF REVEALED CONCERN FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS OVE THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS BELIEVED TO BE BUILDING AND FINANCING SMALL PROTECTIVE GROUPS FOR THE INTERNAL LEADERS WHO WERE BILLED AS CONSISTING OF DEFECTING GUERRILLAS. THESE WERE PERCEIVED AS GUERRILLAS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION PUBLICLY THAT THE CEASEFIRE WAS WORKING AND IMPRESSION PUBLICLY THAT GUERRILLAS WERE JOINGING THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, OPPOSITION NATIONAL UNIFYING FORCE AND THE BLACK RUN NEWSPAPER, ZIMBABWE TIMES, HAVE BOTH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE MSANE INCIDENT FURTHER DEMONSTRATES THE PROLIFERATION OF "PRIVATE ARMIES".

4. THE REACTION HAS BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT SOME ANXIETY. PRESS ACCOUNTS QUOTE ONE OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04799 171637Z

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT MONTHS TRYING TO BUILD WHITE CONFIDENCE AND NOW "WHITE MORALE HAS PLUMMETTED TO ZERO." MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROGR HAWKINS IN AN APPARENT MOVE TO REASSURE THE WHITE PUBLIC, TOLD PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 15 HE REGRETTED THE PROGRAM BECAUSE IT "GAVE A VERY DISTORTED PICTURE OF HOW THE AMNESTY POLICY OPERATES." HE SAID THAT THE POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES WERE STILL VERY MUCH IN CHARGE AND THAT PRM-GOVERNMENT GUERRILLAS LIKE "MAX" WERE UNDER CONTROL AND ONLY AN "EXTENSION" OF THE SECURITY FORCES.

5. COMMENT: THE SAME INCIDENT HAS THROWN THE GOVERNMENT OFF-GUARD. WHETHER STAGED OR NOT, IT WAS VRY LIKELY APPROVED AT A HIGH LEVEL WITH THE NEED IN MIND TO PROVE THAT THE CEASEFIRE WAS FWORKING. THE WHITE POPULATION WAS APPARENTLY UPNPREPARED, DESPITE MONTHS OF PROPAGANDITING, FOR THE THOUGHT THAT "TERRORISTS" MAY SOON PLAY A CONTROLLING ROLE IN THEIR LIVES. DESPITE THE IMAGE OF MUZOREWA AS A MODERATE WHO IS SENSITIVE TO WHITE DESIREW AND ASPIRATIONS, HIS DISPLAY OF ALLEGED GUERRILLAS HAS BROUGHT HOME THE REALIZATION THAT THE "BOYS IN THE BUSH" WILL INDEED PLAY A ROL, EVEN IF MUZOREWA IS THE LEADER OF THE FUTURE.

EDMONDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780336-0992
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808115/aaaafkz.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 99c0f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 4707
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1583622
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970821
Subject: RHODESIA: REACTIONS TO GUERRILLA PRESENCE AT MUZOREWA MEETING
TAGS: PDEV, PINS, PINT, RH
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/99c0f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014